





## Synopsis

Born in the post-war Ukrainian town of Vinnitsa, Zakhar Cordovin studied art in Leningrad, spent a few years in Stockholm, and now lectures on art at the University of Jerusalem. He roams all over Europe in pursuit of obscure art works that he will restore and sell for lavish sums of money, attributing them to the greatest masters of the past.

During one of his European trips, Cordovin spots an old painting that he immediately identifies as belonging to one of El Greco's pupils. The troubling resemblance of the artist's name – Zacarias Cordovera – with his own, fascinates Cordovin. But he is also haunted by the image of a saint depicted in the portrait, and in certain details revealed during the restoration. The brilliantly concocted forgery scheme culminates in the multimillion-dollar sale of "a previously unknown El Greco painting" to the Vatican.

Yet Cordovin sets off on his own personal investigation of the true story of the painting, a journey that eventually takes him to Córdoba, where he comes face to face with his family's tragic past. The sweeping chase after the phantoms and mysteries of his family history intertwines with a crime story from Cordovin's student years in Leningrad, resulted the brutal murder of a close friend of his, challenging him years later with the no-option choice to avenge the murder.